

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 053-2004**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** March 2, 2004

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jorge".

**Subject: SOUTH POINTE PARK PIER CLOSURE**

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide information on the temporary closure of the pier in South Pointe Park from March 5, 2004 through April 12, 2004.

The pier has become progressively more problematic for the Police Department for a number of public safety issues. This area has increasingly become a location for juveniles to congregate causing large numbers of disturbances including fights, drug activity, as well as the many individuals who choose to illegally dive from the pier into Government Cut. This activity wreaks havoc with the quality of life for residents in the area, with the multitude of boaters and jet skiers navigating through this waterway and is furthering the physical deterioration of the pier itself. To prevent these gatherings from escalating into volatile situations, Patrol Officers and the Police Department's Marine Patrol vessel are frequently utilized to disperse these crowds. This has become a constant drain on the limited resources of the Police Department during peak periods.

The upcoming Spring Break period is expected to bring a large number of additional visitors to our area. As was evident last year, weekends during the month of March and beginning of April will have large amounts of students enjoying South Beach. To handle this influx of tourists, the Miami Beach Police Department has developed an enhanced staffing plan. Diverting officers from their duties to prevent the disruptive behavior on the pier during this critical time frame will inhibit the ability of the Police Department to maintain adequate staffing levels throughout the City during Spring Break. Therefore, in order to ensure public safety and protect the physical condition of the pier, the pier will be temporarily closed during this period.

JMG\DWD\tr

c: Bob Middaugh, Assistant City Manager  
Chief Donald W. De Lucca  
Major John DiCenso  
Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director